

KACEY ROSE FOUNDATION

March 18th, 2009

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you so much for your consideration and support of SB 678.

I am so pleased to see that Section 5 of SB 678 would require healthcare providers to communicate to their maternity patients that they have the option, and the right to donate their umbilical cord blood to a public bank.

I am one of the founding members of the Kacey Rose Foundation, which is a 501©3 charitable foundation. Our missions are to assist families affected by childhood cancers and to help spread awareness regarding cord blood donations.

My understanding is that many OB/GYN offices in CT currently hand out materials to let their maternity patients know that they can store their cord blood privately for their own use. The Kacey Rose Foundation would love to see that CT doctors also provide a second option to those families, so that they know they can choose to donate their cord blood if they do not choose to store it for their own use.

The Kacey Rose foundation has found that most families in CT are unaware that they have the option to donate.

Unfortunately, we are also finding that most OB/GYN doctors in CT are not supplied with the materials or information to transfer knowledge to their patients regarding cord blood donation to a public bank.

The Kacey Rose Foundation has created a draft of a brochure that could be placed in provider offices to help them communicate with their patients that they can choose to donate their umbilical cord blood.

We have been reaching out to various doctors in CT to request their feedback on this literature that we have created. Once the content is agreed upon by this core group of doctors, the Kacey Rose Foundation will be able to supply this literature to healthcare providers across the state of CT.

The brochure that the Kacey Rose Foundation is creating will supply the patient with up to date information on how they can donate their umbilical cord blood, free of charge, to a public bank. Currently, the only public bank that will accept donations from CT residents is Cryobanks International, which is located in Florida.

If SB 678 is passed, the providers can either choose to distribute the materials provided by the Kacey Rose Foundation, or they can use the materials that Cryobanks International can provide.

With either of these options, I do not foresee any additional healthcare costs associated with section 5 of SB 678.

Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support on this Bill.

Sincerely,
Krista Harvey, Secretary
Kacey Rose Foundation, Inc
www.kaceyrose.org
203-530-2522